

MARION MEDICAL MISSION

*Daily Devotions
2022 Well Season*



Daily Devotions

Written by and for
African staff, U.S. volunteers,
and MMM supporters



Marion Medical Mission



Well Season 2022
September 1 - October 31

About Marion Medical Mission

Marion Medical Mission wells provide sustainable sources of safe drinking water in Sub-Saharan Africa.



- Since 1990, MMM has built **over 45,000 wells** covering an area of roughly 60,000 square miles in Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania.
- Self-help is an essential component. The villagers make the brick, provide the sand, stone, and unskilled labor. MMM provides only what the village can't: the cement, pipe, pump, skilled African labor.
- Sustainability is the key to the program's success. This is a well the extreme poor can afford to maintain without outside assistance.
- Everything is purchased, manufactured, and administered in Africa by Africans.
- Subsistence farmers who are well maintenance people make the Mark V galvanized steel pumps in three workshops (in Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania).
- In 2021 Marion Medical Mission built 3,413 wells in 3,413 rural villages providing 315,120 of the extreme poor (an estimated 189,072 children) with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. **Our goal for 2022 is 3,450 wells.**
- Safe drinking water means children won't die from water borne diseases. Not just the year the well was built, but the next year, and the next year...
- Safe drinking water means healthier people who work longer in their fields producing more food, and that means less starvation. Not just the year the well was built, but the next year, and the next year...
- MMM's infrastructure on the ground in Africa is superb. There are four Well Programs, each run by an African Coordinator, 21 African Field Officers, 104 African Installation Supervisors, 1,100 certified African well builders, and 4,000 trained village maintenance people.

100% of all designated donations go to their designated purposes.

100% of all undesignated donations go to the mission field in Africa.

Please partner with us! \$450 funds a well that provides a sustainable source of safe water to an entire African village.

www.mmmwater.org
info@mmmwater.org
1412 Shawnee Drive
Marion IL 62959

Members of the Team

Well season begins! We ask for your prayers for everyone involved in installing wells -- the MMM staff in Africa and the volunteers from the U.S. that will join them.

MMM Staff in Africa

MALAWI (LIVINGSTONIA)

Vyalema Khosa
Samuel Hara
Francis Mwanjikhho
Mavuto Nyirenda
Edwin Nyondo
Lewis Silungwe

TANZANIA

Rev. Elijah Mwasakifwa
John Lubinza
Luseshelo Magwaza
Edeni Ngiluke
Sunday Samson
John Wella

MALAWI (NKHOMA)

Jordan Banda
Godfrey Chanika
Watson Kapachika
Wilfred Kamanga
Happy Kamsonga
Francis Kaponda

ZAMBIA

Chrispin Mhango
Goodwin Banda
Thomas Soko
Isaac Tindi
Moses Nthala

MMM Volunteers from the U.S.

Hayden Boyd
Rick Delaney
Slade Exley
Jocelyn Logan
Tom Logan
Martin McCoy
Steve McKeown

Carol Nussbaumer
Jim Nussbaumer
Meg Packard
Betty Samelson
Wayne Schultz
Jessi Stitt

Another Year of Blessings



When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
Isaiah 41:17

Marion Medical Mission is celebrating another amazing year - 37 in all! God has blessed us beyond belief, allowing us to bring clean water to an estimated five million people. **We have overcome challenge after challenge - and with your help - we have accomplished the impossible.**

Together, we have built more than 45,000 wells, and these wells are a permanent solution to the water crisis in villages in rural Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia. **Your support is saving lives and improving health for generations of people.** A Marion Medical Mission well in an African village means the children no longer die from water-borne diseases. It means healthier people who work longer in their fields, producing more food, meaning less starvation.

In 2020 and 2021, the coronavirus pandemic meant we could not send U.S. volunteers to Africa, the first time since our Well Program started in 1990. Yet, MMM built a record 3,165 wells in 2020 and a record 3,413 wells in 2021. And we built them where the poor are. IMPOSSIBLE! Think about it!

This is a story that defies the logic of the secular world. This is an example of what is right in the world. It is an example of what can happen when God's people come together. Through this program we are a part of each other. This is a story the world needs to hear.

This year, we have a U.S team going to work hand in hand with our African partners. Please keep them in prayer along with the village communities, the Well Program Coordinators, Field Officers, Installation Supervisors, and builders.

The goal is to build 3,450 wells, providing 3,450 villages with urgently needed clean drinking water. 3,450 villages will get the message Christians in the U.S. shared the love of Jesus with them. God has given us more than enough. We have the resources, and we are called to share them. Thank you for joining the adventure, the excitement, the joy of making a difference. Together, we make the impossible possible.

When we pray, we move our feet! What you do speaks so loud I can't hear what you say.

Tom and Jocelyn Logan, MMM Founders

A New Thing With God

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:18-19



In view of the economic uncertainties, wars and coronavirus tensions around us, we are tempted to “play God” and depend on ourselves. Like Israel under captivity, we are prone to either fight our own battles or resign to our own fate. But God tells us otherwise. He is a God of new things. He wants to make all things new – for us! He wants to realign our hearts with His. God is calling us, through this Scripture, to look to Him, not at our circumstances, and to focus on our freedom in Christ, not on our perceived “slavery” to world events.

The same directive the prophet Isaiah gave to Israel in Babylon encouraged me and my team to push on harder during the past two well installation seasons when the U.S. volunteers did not come to do wells with us due to coronavirus and consequently, had successful years too.

“...We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). No matter how hard the circumstance is; If you love God, you can trust that He is working for your good. He loves you back, and He works for “those who are called according to His purpose.”

Have you ever thought that your involvement with MMM is the reason He holds for your life? Regardless of the situation you are in right now or were in the past. God has taken a new approach for His purpose in your life and things will not be the same. In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.

Application Question: What is God’s purpose for my life in this program?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You so much for thy goodness. Please help me to open my ears and my heart to understand Your purpose for my involvement with MMM and do what is needed. Amen

Jordan Banda
MMM Program Coordinator, Malawi

Do Not Worry



Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear.

*But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—
you of little faith?*

But strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:25,30,33

I have not been to Africa, but my wife, Alisa participated twice as an MMM volunteer. Prior to her travels, I worried about all of the possible problems that could occur: injury, illness, fatigue, insufficient food/sleep, etc., etc. The list was really endless because I can be very creative when it comes to worrying! I clearly was not following Christ's 'Don't worry' advice; I was one of those with "little faith."

I could only imagine two possible outcomes to her participation in this distant land. The best possible outcome was, I believed, that Alisa would arrive back home safe and sound and just like she was when she left. That is, I imagined that the best possible outcome would be an unchanged Alisa. What worried me was that she would be changed and the only vision of change to me was for the worse, that one of many possible problems I imagined would occur.

What I did not foresee was the Hand of God at work to change Alisa, yes, not for the worse but for the better. She grew and changed in a very fundamental way. Her view of the world expanded substantially. She developed knowledge, skills, and dispositions, all because she was open to the influence of faith and simply said 'yes' to this opportunity, an opportunity that was a gift from the Creator and conveyed so clearly in Christ's message.

Application Question: Can you be open to the Creator giving to you the riches of life?

Prayer: Creator, support our striving for Your kingdom. Calm our worried minds, and help us imagine instead the lilies of the fields. Open us to accept Your gifts, to understand that doing so is part of the plan. Amen

Ken Simpson
MMM Supporter, Missouri
(reprinted from 2019)

The Lord Will Guide You

*The LORD will guide you continually,
watering your life when you are dry and keeping you healthy, too.
You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.*

Isaiah 58:11



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we once again join our hands together in this new season of installing wells. God has prepared all of us from different corners of life, this is the life that God granted you personally to bring meaningful life to others.

From this text, we learn that God sends you and I to go out and do to His People what He has already done for us.

God has a great promise to everyone of the believers as per Isaiah the prophet “The Lord will guide you continually and keep you healthy.”

This is to say everyday you go out for installation work you are not left alone, He is beside you and in front of you leading you to meet and fulfill His will.

We need full protection from the divine power when we carry the strong message of Christ’s love to the communities “water is life, and Jesus himself is the water of life.”

The Lord wants your life be something unique and special as you go to serve others.

As you actually help to change lives of many in the rural areas here in Africa, particularly where you are now in Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania. God wants your life and transforms it into something beautiful, as you change others God will also change you. After this installation work I am sure you will not remain the same unchanged.

He can take what is barren and dry and turn it into a masterpiece. He brings life into our situations and He sustains in us.

Application Question: Are you still feeling lonely or protected?

Prayer: God our Master, we feel blessed to be chosen to participate in Your great mission and plans. Through this MMM program, take and send where You want us to go for Your glory. We humbly pray this and ask in Jesus’ name. Amen

Reverend Elijah Mwasakifwa
MMM Program Coordinator, Tanzania

Just a Little Bit to Offer



*There's a young boy here with five loaves and two fish.
But what good is that with this huge crowd?
John 6:9*

Let's think about that boy. Was he overwhelmed by the crowd of 5,000 hungry men, plus who knows how many women and children? Had he ever seen so many people at once? Did he overhear Jesus talking to the disciples? Did he just automatically offer his little bit of food, with the innocent, wide-eyed generosity of a child? Or did he struggle with his own hunger, wanting to keep this little bit for himself? Did other people think it was crazy? Jesus didn't. Jesus used that little bit!

Are we like that young boy when we think of the thousands of villagers who need clean water? Do we feel overwhelmed with the need? What good is our little bit?

Last fall, three kindergarten classes at High Plains School in Loveland, Colorado were learning about water. They learned about the need for clean water and how MMM is building wells in Malawi. One young boy had an idea to sell popsicles after school for \$1 each. The whole school came together in this project and raised over \$500 to sponsor a well. They remind me of the boy with the loaves and fish. The idea, the popsicles and their energy were the "little bit" they had.

Let's think about that boy in the Bible again. What happened to him? How did it change him, being part of a real-life miracle? How was he different as an adult? Did he follow Jesus? I ask the same question about the kindergarten children. How will they be different because of "their well"? How are any of us changed by our connection with MMM? I have heard so many say that MMM has been a life-changing experience – the donors, the volunteers, the well-builders, the field officers, the villagers, especially the children. We each have only a "little bit" to offer, compared to the great need. But, ohhh what a difference our little bit can have in the Hands of Jesus!

Application: What is the little bit you have to offer?

Prayer: Dear miracle-working, amazing Jesus, show me what You want me to offer! Multiply the little bit I have and use it to bring safe, refreshing water to those who need it desperately. Change me through these wells so I will be more like You! Amen

Karen Dragano
Volunteer, Colorado

Unexpected Blessings

*From the fullness of his grace
we have all received one blessing after another.
John 1:16*



When I first heard of Marion Medical Mission I was excited about the opportunity to help provide such a basic thing as clean water to so many people in need, and to be personally involved in the process.

My expectations were high, but naïve. I was to discover there was far more going on here and far more significance than I imagined. I was humbled to find out the role of a volunteer was a small part of Marion Medical Mission and what I would do was but the tip of an iceberg (sic) that resulted in the preparation for and installation of so many wells each year.

As I learned more about the organization and the infrastructure in Africa; the planning, the logistics, the training, as well as the broad participation of coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors, builders, manufacturers, maintainers and well committees, I began to understand why MMM has been so successful and why we volunteers are so blessed to be included. The grace of God was at work.

I also did not expect the blessing of relationships among volunteers and the priceless friendships with our African partners, nor did I anticipate or fully appreciate the joy of villagers until I saw them drink clean water for the first time.

Application Question: What unexpected blessings have you received or witnessed from being involved with Marion Medical Mission?

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes to the blessings that have come in the midst of our involvement with Marion Medical Mission. Thank You for the many friends and experiences through which You have revealed Your love among us. Amen

Wayne Schultz
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Colorado
(reprinted from 2019)

One Body in Christ



*Just as a body, though one, has many parts,
but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:12*

We were not there! For the past two years, the good work of the well program has gone on without the presence of all us strange Americans. I personally miss the year-long anticipation of going back to Africa to dedicate wells, re-establish bonds and friendships with African people and staff, and sometimes even feel useful!

I'm sure all veteran volunteers feel the same and we must think of the missed opportunities for new volunteers. We were there, and have always been there, to share in the miracle that is MMM and to bring that story back home. Yet, despite our absence, the story DOES go on: record numbers of wells were installed and talk of even expanding the program goes on. What an enormous testament to the dedication and resolve of a program that has always been IN Africa and steered BY Africans.

Perhaps by the temporary absence of a part of a whole body, Paul's reminder is made even stronger. We are truly one body in Christ and even if we cannot be always together, the many parts continue to be present as a whole. I look forward to someday returning to Africa but, in the meanwhile, I'm aware and grateful that the miracle goes on.

Application Question: In what way can I manifest my oneness with the whole body of Christ?

Prayer: Please, Lord, help me to understand my place in Your Body and help me to become the person You want me to be. Amen

Jim Calloway
Volunteer, Illinois

Prayer is the Answer

*Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your request be made known to God.
And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4: 6-7*



Feeling anxious? God tells us to pray about everything, bringing every concern to Him. As part of our prayer time, He instructs us to be thankful, to have gratitude because He knows how powerful it is to pray with the expectation of God's goodness and grace.

Prayer gives us the opportunity to leave our burdens with God; the God of all creation wants us to lean on Him for help. Prayer helps us learn to rely on and trust in God. When we pray, we build faith and practice knowing that God is willing and able to help us. And prayer reveals the glory and authority of God when He answers.

In his word, God tells us to not be anxious! That's a command from the Lord, so every time we are in the field installing wells, let us hold on to prayer because that's the answer to every situation we are in today.

Application Question: God tells us that we should pray to Him with thanksgiving and make our request known to Him. Have you prayed today?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You that You know all things and that You know everything about me. Thank You that I can cast all my cares upon You - for You care for me. Keep me from anxious thoughts and help me to train my mind on Jesus for I want to depend on You in all things, not only today but in the days that lie ahead. This I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Godfrey Chanika
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

The God of Hope



*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 15:13*

I suppose that to many the idea of “hope” is seen as simply a silly, naive belief in fairy tale endings. To those people, in order to accomplish things - both great things and small things - is simply a matter of defining the challenge, mapping out the steps to get the job done, and putting in the work. And to those people I say, “Wake up! Smell the roses!”

Hope is one of God’s greatest gifts to us all! Hope is what gives us the joyous faith that with God’s help and abiding love we can accomplish the impossible! Hope is what allowed two young foolish people, Tom and Jocelyn Logan, 40 years ago to believe they could make a difference in the world by bringing clean water to people on the other side of the globe. Hope is what allows all of us involved in Marion Medical Mission — volunteers, coordinators, field officers, installation supervisors, builders, maintenance men, zone committees, building committees, and villagers — to build relationships and to trust one another to do their part to get the job done.

Hope is what allows us to persevere through the inevitable dark or difficult times and get to the light on the other side. Hope is what gives us the audacity to believe we can together build 3,450 wells in 2022. Hope is what allows us to humbly act as God’s hands and feet here on earth and joyously participate in the miracle that is Marion Medical Mission. Uchindami kwa chiuta!!

Application Question: How can you tap into the hope and joy that God has given you to make the day better for someone you meet today?

Prayer: We give thanks for Your abiding love and filling us with the gift of hope. Help us to use that gift to bring joy and peace into a world so desperately in need of both. Amen

Meg Packard
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Alabama

Who's My Neighbor?

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40



I got back from Malawi on April 26th; the first time I'd been in Africa in over two years. The poverty shocked me. In Lilongwe I saw a woman taking a bath in a ditch and a man in the ditch not far from her, washing his clothes.

"I must not ignore the wounded man on life's Jericho Road, because he is a part of me, and I am a part of him. His agony diminishes me, and his salvation enlarges me."
(Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr)

But we are separated by language, by culture, by color, by distance, by income, by poverty, by education. And too often we are separated by greed, by jealousy, by egos, by hate, by half-truths, and by lies.

Yet, MMM built a record 3,413 wells last year and during the Covid Pandemic. We built them where the rural poor are...where no one else will go. IMPOSSIBLE! Think about it!

This is a story that defies the logic of the secular world.

This Well Program has brought people together: the extreme poor, the not so poor, the wealthy; black people, white people; Americans, Africans; white collar, blue collar; college professors, those who never attended school. God's creation.

Only together can we be who God created us to be. What you do speaks so loud I can't hear what you say. When we pray, we move our feet.

Application Question: How can I show God's love to my neighbor?

Prayer: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven...

Tom Logan
MMM Co-founder and President

Prepared in Advance



*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith –
and this is not from yourselves, so that no one can boast.
For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:8-10*

This scripture has two distinct parts. The first says that we cannot earn salvation. That is a gift from God. But then, part two immediately follows and says that we were created for “good works.”

I have preached for years that sitting in church no more makes you a Christian than standing in a garage makes you a car. I believe that “church” is about two things. One, to tell people where to find salvation, which is to simply accept it as a gift from God. And two, to join people together in mutual acts of “good works.”

It took me a couple years of participating in MMM to understand that what we are doing is not all that remarkable; the act of working together, the church in Africa and the church in the United States working side by side in an incredible mission to help those who need clean water. I’m not saying what we accomplish is not incredible because it is. What we are doing is what we were created for. What we are accomplishing is amazing because we join forces together, in Christ, to do what Tom Logan calls the impossible.

Remember this, no matter what part you play, leader, organizer, Field Officer, well digger, sand carrier, truck driver, Coordinator, Well Supervisor, Maintenance Man/Woman, we are all doing what we were created for. Fulfilling our destiny and purpose. And I can think of no more satisfying place to be.

Application Question: How will you fulfill your destiny and purpose, what you were created to do?

Prayer: Creator of purpose, thank You for this work you prepared for us before we were even born. Give us strength to keep it up. Amen

Reverend Ed Hoke
Volunteer, Illinois

The Throne of God

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39



I once heard a pastor ask the congregation to finish the sentence “God is glorious because _____” with the thing about God we are most thankful for. The obvious answer is that God sent His son to take the weight of our sin, making a way for us to spend eternity with Him.

It did not take long for me to determine the second thing I am most thankful for. His constant presence. That I cannot escape His presence no matter where I am at any moment, of any day. So whether I am thinking about my future when I may become old and gray, or thinking about MMM, it is comforting to realize that we cannot escape His presence. We are connected to the throne of God.

Which also means my brothers and sisters in Africa and I are connected together in God’s presence. Because we are in God’s presence, we have everything we need. There is nowhere we will go that He will not be right there with us.

This is His program. This is His story. My hope is that this truth will carry you through this day and every day ahead, comforting you and filling you with the strength and power that can only come from the one true, living God, Jesus Christ.

Application Question: When fear or anxiety is knocking at the door, will you remember your access to the throne of God because of Jesus?

According to His eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence (Ephesians 3:11-12)

Prayer: Thank You for your overwhelming goodness and constant presence. Thank You for your grace made available to us through the blood of Jesus. Forgive us in His name for where we fail You. Thank You for my brothers and sisters in Africa. Thank You for connecting us and allowing us to be part of MMM to provide clean water and good health to Your sons and Your daughters. Help us to glorify You with every breath that we breathe. Amen

God of Impossibilities



*And He said,
"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."
Luke 18:27*

At the end of 2019, the world experienced the worst pandemic Coronavirus (Covid 19), and most of the activities stopped as there was a lockdown.

In Iringa District in Tanzania, it was just two years since the MMM Program started. As the Program started, people of most villages were curious to get safe and clean water from MMM, as they have been drinking dirty water for a long time, mostly people from villages where wells were not installed.

Having experienced Covid 19 and activities being shut down, people gave up and believed there would be no more well construction and installation in their villages. But as installation season began in 2020, they heard that they had to get prepared for well building and installation in their respective areas. People of Iringa District found that was a big miracle to them done by God. They wondered how, in the midst of crisis, MMM was able to do everything in their power for soliciting funds for well installation. Because of love, you are still doing that to make sure that people in Africa have safe and clean water. The villagers said really it is God who did that through Americans, we thought it was impossible, but the God of miracles made it possible. People were so happy and showed smiles after seeing trucks going to their villages for the well installations.

God has spoken to us and our people through this gift of clean safe drinking water. People of Iringa District are very much happy with good work done by MMM despite the fact that we are passing through unusual times. They owe MMM a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid, and as for now the best words that they could say is "God Bless MMM and its leadership."

Application Question: What is that thing you find impossible today in your life?

Prayer: Dear God our Lord, thank You for the gift of life You have given us, thank You for being our Provider and Protector, for Your ways are righteous and true, please make our ways purposeful and our footsteps firm out of Your goodness and love, protect and bless us, In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Edeni Ngiluke
MMM Field Officer, Tanzania

Share the Love of Christ

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20



Over the past two years we have learned that MMM's African teams and local communities can build and install every well without any help from American volunteers. We celebrate their accomplishments during this very difficult time. We praise God for their hard work and dedication! So, does this mean that Americans don't need to go to Africa any more? Not at all! Our friends in Africa still need us and definitely want us to come back! American volunteers play several unique roles in MMM's ministry:

- We are witnesses who watch wells being installed first hand. We see clean water pumping out of the new wells. We meet the supervisors, builders, and community leaders who now own the new wells. We can testify that MMM actually does what is says it will do!
- We are ambassadors for MMM, both in Africa and back home in the US. Through our personal visits to Africa, we become the best ambassadors for MMM. Armed with our photos, videos, and personal experiences, we can go home and tell MMM's story with confidence and credibility.
- We are the link between the donor and the village, the visible face of the people in America that cared about this village. We share the love of Christ in each and every community we visit through prayer, dedication talks and friendly fellowship. We build relationships on each visit and represent the Christian faith positively through our joy and respect for all God's people. We are ambassadors, not just from Africa to America, but also from America to Africa.

Through our presence at well installations in Africa, we share the love of Jesus Christ. When we tell MMM's story, we also become ambassadors for Jesus Christ. As we encourage those we meet through prayer, fellowship and celebration, we also encourage one another to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Application Questions: How have you been an ambassador for Jesus Christ? Have you seen others become ambassadors for Christ too?

Prayer: Lord God, open our hearts and minds to recognize Your presence within us and all around us as we witness and celebrate Your life-giving power through the gift of clean, safe drinking water. Amen

Doug Kee
Volunteer and MMM Vice President, Michigan

In All Circumstances



*Be joyful always; pray continually...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:18 "*

This is a hard scripture to take in. "All circumstances"? Surely God doesn't mean "all" as in every single thing 24/7/365? C'mon, Lord. Life isn't all sunshine and unicorns here on earth. Sometimes I wake up grumpy, there's no coffee, every shirt has a rip and every sock a hole. The toast burns, there's only grape jelly, somebody ate the last banana. Give thanks?

Well, I can give thanks that I have toast and jelly. Many in the world don't And thanks that I have a choice of shirts and socks. Many don't. I woke up this morning. Thank you, Father. But it's hard and it takes practice and I'm not sure how to handle stuff like war and unrelenting poverty and unexpected death. And I'm really not good at the first sentences in this passage "v. 16 Be joyful always; v17 pray continually..." Perhaps if I worked harder at these two, the giving thanks part would come more easily. Perhaps "giving thanks" need not be accompanied by a short dance with hands in the air or involve a ten-minute formal prayer. Maybe it can be the one I already do at home each morning when I look at the mountains: "Thank you, Lord."

Application Questions: I can't commit to praying in everything, but can I try to give thanks at least four times a day? And try to increase that number little by little? I wonder what difference that might make in me.

Prayer: Lord God, You ask hard things of us. But You promise that all things – all things! – will work for our good in Jesus the Christ. Please, help me to be obedient and faithful to You and to remember that everything is in Your control and under Your watchful eye. I don't expect a life with no problems, no pain, and am grateful that You promise to be beside me in those hard times. Father, help me to give thanks, to be joyful and to pray continually walking in Your presence. Amen

Carol Nussbaumer
Volunteer, Colorado

Every Time I Remember You

*I thank my God every time I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of
your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being
confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry
it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
Philippians 1:3-6*



It is hard to believe that three years have passed since the last full trip with MMM to Africa!

The physical separation has been disheartening to all involved, yet the connection between staff and volunteers has not been broken. Just as Paul was thankful for the Philippians and prayed with joy for them, volunteers and our African partners have done the same for each other!

The connection has held firm not only for three years but for over three decades for good reasons, not the least of which is the love of God and the grace and strength He has bestowed upon all those in this work. Challenges have been overcome, some seemingly insurmountable like Covid, some more mundane like a misplaced well part, or the “memo” a village missed concerning the day of well dedication...

As this modified well season begins, the thankful and joyful prayers of so many are being sent in “remembrance of you” - all the MMM staff as well as volunteers are covered in these prayers!

Application Question: How will I share my joyfulness with not only those working to install and dedicate wells but with others? Help me to pray thankfully and joyfully for these partners in faith and work.

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, You have given all involved with MMM different abilities and tasks. We thank You for Your love and its power to give strength and joy to volunteers and staff alike. We ask that our thankful and joyful prayers be felt and known to all the partners this well season. In His name, Amen.

Jamie Jones
Volunteer, Georgia

Branches of Christ's Body



Abide in me and I in you as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the true vine, you are the branches: he who abides in me and I in him, bears much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and is withered and they gather them and throw them into the fire and they are burned.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:4-6, 12-13

Marion Medical Mission's work is the manifestation of Jesus Christ's love and it is this love that we need to share with one another. As MMM employees, we are the branches of Christ's body, therefore we need to follow Jesus's path to bear more fruits, the fruits that will speak about us in our absence.

The fruits of love, joy, peace, kindness, faithfulness and self-control leave unforgettable memories and strengthen the cordial relationships developed in the field of our work. The more we embrace the fruits of the Holy Spirit, the more our heavenly Father rejoices in us.

The distances that we walk, the challenges that we face, the work that we do for the people that we serve, are some of the indications of our dedication and willingness to die for the betterment of other people's lives.

Application Question: Does our servitude bring out fulfillment?

Prayer: Dear God in Heaven, endow us with your noble powers and a well-balanced mind. Help us to be in harmony with You. Give us pure thoughts and Your holy aims. Help us to be in Your sinless state, so that we should hold a joyful communion with You in whom are hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Let us find joy in Your holiness, and not hide from Your presence but be happy in Your presence. Amen

Mavuto A. C. Nyirenda
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

U.S. Volunteers Arrive

*Today is the day that the volunteers arrive from the United States,
to join the African coordinators, field officers, and well builders.
Today is the day that we all come together
to share the love of God.*



Heavenly Father, by Your inspiration we are reuniting again with new and familiar faces in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia. We ask for your blessing during this journey -- and loving embrace for our family and friends at home -- and for those less fortunate than ourselves.

May Your guiding light touch the mentors and leaders in each village, community, and government body -- so they may seek justice, inspire hope, bring change, and extend a compassionate ear and voice for all.

We arrive in Africa with an abundance of gifts and opportunity -- and we give thanks to you for these blessings and the spirit to share them with our brothers and sisters in the days and weeks ahead.

Father, the well has been prepared, and the pipes and pump are waiting to be installed, and the GPS confirmed.

We ask what's next?

You remind us we are left with ourselves...just as You made us.

The connection of humanity -- we too are like them, and they like us. Created in Your image. We come together -- all of us hungry, thirsty, yearning for connection, hope, and LOVE.

Father, we give thanks to You for these blessings.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

Rick Delaney
Volunteer, Ohio
(adapted from 2017)

A New Thing



*For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!
Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness.
I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.
Isaiah 43:19*

If you are reading this, then you must somehow be connected to MMM. Isaiah 43:19 reminds me exactly of the powerful mission the Lord is accomplishing through MMM. He is creating water in the dry land. And more than that, He is doing something new! He is changing not only the physical landscape for the people who this program serves, he is changing the spiritual landscape for all those connected with the program! Whatever your role in this is, know that the Lord is with you.

Isaiah 43 is one of my favorite chapters in the entire Bible. I beg you to read it today. Regardless of where you are right now, whether serving in your homeland or far away, it will encourage you. We all face trials. Serving with MMM means you will face trials. It may be a shaky bridge you must drive across. It may be facing fears that suddenly bubble to the surface.

Likewise, serving in the United States (or anywhere else!) means you will face trials of their own unique kind. But the Lord promises us that He will be with us. "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through the rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." (vs. 2). How powerful is this reassurance from our Lord? No matter where you are today, or how you are called to serve Him, HE WILL BE WITH YOU.

Application Question: Where do I need reassurance in my life today that the Lord is with me?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for promising to be with us. Thank You for protecting us and strengthening us. Thank You for allowing us to be a part of this new thing that you are doing. Thank You for bringing water to the dry land, both physically and spiritually. We love You Lord, Amen.

Tiffany (Poch) Howey
Volunteer, Colorado

The Lord Gives You Peace!

*The LORD bless you and keep you!
The LORD let his face shine upon you and be gracious
to you! The LORD look upon you and give you peace!
Numbers 6:24-26*



A blessing was one way of asking for God's divine favor to rest upon others. Its five parts conveyed hope that God would bless and keep them (favor and protect); make his face shine upon them (be pleased); be gracious (merciful and compassionate); turn his face toward them (give his approval) and give peace.

In 2020 and 2021, I came to treasure the quiet moments in my life while asking for His blessing for our MMM family, the villages, shopkeepers, communities, and their places of faith. Eyes sometimes clinched in prayer, I could put myself on a footpath marching to the next village to be welcomed with arms wide open; and smiles so bright you couldn't help but return their gratitude.

It reminds me of Colossians 2:15 – "For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ."

Each morning – reading the daily MMM devotional; I was back with our brothers and sisters. I was here – they were there; separated by a pandemic but never, ever so far away that God's divine favor would rest upon our partners as they scrambled along those same footpaths meeting each village with prayer and purpose. We ask for His blessing upon those who move their feet while stirring up dust – enough that I'm certain I could taste the dry African earth.

May we continue to ask for His blessing over this ministry, for it will help our African families as they too continue to pray for our grace and peace. The blessings shared will demonstrate our love, encouragement and a model of graciousness and caring to others. May the quiet moments of each day allow us to pause as we pray to share and receive His peace.

Application Question: Will I pause each day, with prayer and purpose?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, while we continue to miss deeply those whom we love but cannot be sharing our ministry of presence, grace us with the firmness to love in this time of absence. In His name, Amen.

Rick Delaney
Volunter, Ohio

Be Confident



Be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

Heading to Africa with MMM on my first trip was a wild mix of emotions. At the orientation meeting, I heard numerous stories of what I could expect and I felt a sense of excitement, anxiousness, and a feeling of unpreparedness. What did I just sign myself up for?

In the months leading up to the trip, I wanted to make sure I was prepared as much as possible, so I could handle any random situation that would be thrown my way. I set very high standards for myself. Funny thing is, I was so worried about not being able to handle the job, that I became more anxious than excited about going. I didn't have trust in God and His ability to use me as I am, imperfections and all.

For me, when being faced with a new challenge, I want to be equipped as best I can and have all the data before diving in. One can never be fully prepared for the Africa trip because every day is different for each person. Some days someone gets sick, you switch partners, you get a flat tire. Most of the stories I was warned about never even happened, at least not to me.

For those of you on the trip, you are part of MMM because God ignited a flame and yearning inside you to push your boundaries, so try not to worry about your "weaknesses." Embrace your flaws and uncertainties, for God is there to help you complete His mission. He has already equipped you with the strength and support to succeed, be confident in His calling and enjoy your experience.

Application Question: In what area do you need to have more confidence in God?

Prayer: I am here because You have confidence in me to see Your mission through. Allow me to see myself through Your eyes and trust in my abilities. For You have equipped each of us to use our skills in the best way we can. Let us not lose sight of You and Your mission for MMM to bring clean water to the people of Africa. Amen

Jackie Fitzella
Volunteer, North Carolina
(reprinted from 2018)

Shepherd the Flock

Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock."

1 Peter 5:2-3



Jesus the greatest leader showed several examples during his ministry, teaching a word of God to the disciples, washed the feet of the disciples, moved around, healing the sick, raising the dead, He became the best servant of the communities around and beyond.

Marion Medical Mission is making strides to continue that mission of showing God's love to the communities, especially the marginalized in the rural areas. Giving them hope by sharing a cup of clean safe drinking water that most could never imagine to have ever in their life time.

Today it's us, the MMM staff that go around the villages. Field Officers and builders, we are the disciples of the day.

Application Question: How do I serve those that are looking to me for assistance?

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, God Almighty, we look forward to You for guidance as we forge ahead with the 2022 well installation season. Give us strong minds to serve You with a sole purpose to please You our Father. In our daily movements around the villages, protect us so that we have safe trips to and from the wells so that the communities will enjoy Your love through the water that will not get them sick, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Wilfred Kamanga
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Love Your Neighbor



*And he said to him "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Matthew 22:27-29*

Although it has been several years now since I was installing wells in Africa, my senses can still envelop me. Beautiful birds and animals, and very loud crickets, and children singing together in the morning sounding like a chorus of angels.

Bougainvillea and toast and huge avocados in the morning with breakfast. Hugs of now friends from near and far. Some of the words and greetings in their language. Strong but gentle hands of women and men. Smells of diesel from the trucks, carrying pipes to the wells, waiting while workers are loading into the bed. The taste of drinking Fanta Pineapple in the front seat and casaba and sugar cane and potatoes hot from an iron skillet over a wood fire eaten with a toothpick. The heavenly fragrance of coffee blooms in fields along the way.

Miles of dirt roads and then worn paths with the clicking of sandals and celebrations as villagers carry tools from the trucks onward to the well, happy people waiting there. Their smiles and eyes and oh, children dancing. Wells surging forth their first clean water, their faces, their praises to God.

Memories, now more than thoughts, are now feelings within. Blessings to us from God and these people.

Application Question: How can we love others and ourselves?

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for the love and joy within us that fills us up. Lord, help us to love one another as we love ourselves. Amen

Richard Ashe
Volunteer, Illinois

Where is the Well?

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5*



How many times have we heard Tom Logan recite that verse?

Well, I have to admit that when I have volunteered to prepare a daily devotion for the MMM well season, I wait for an inspiration. Be patient, wait for it. Today it finally came. I am a little late getting this done, but I knew God would speak to me. Most of this comes from David Jeremiah's Turning Point devotion for May 11, 2022.

In this day of navigation by GPS, we are used to being told our arrival time in miles, hours, and minutes. That is because we are traveling to a geographical location. In Africa, when we ask our field officer or installation supervisor "where is the well?", they usually respond "over there." That usually means anything from a two-minute walk to a two-hour drive through the wilderness. But what if our destination was the Kingdom of God?

Jesus gave a teacher of the law a hint when He said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God" (Mark 12:34). What prompted such a clue? It was the teacher's agreement with Jesus that love of God and love of neighbor were the two most important commandments. Apparently, love of God with heart, soul, mind, and strength (and love of neighbor) puts one in close proximity to God's Kingdom. That means the Kingdom is not (for now) so much a place as it is a set of beliefs leading to God-like actions of love. The Kingdom of God is the rule of God, both now and in the future. We glorify God now – we experience His Kingdom rule – when we love Him with all we are.

Application Question: Today, how can I make sure my love for God moves me ever closer to the heart of His Kingdom rule in my life and the lives of others?

Prayer: Our gracious God, show us how to love all of humanity every day by our actions, words, and deeds. We thank You for this opportunity to serve You and may Your love be seen through us. Amen

Slade Exley
Volunteer, Mississippi

With Joy We Will Draw Water



*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Isaiah 12:3*

The “Festival of Booths” was a major festival in Jesus’ day. People made temporary booths out of branches to celebrate the seven days of the festival. The festival reminded people of their history: wandering in the desert for 40 years and living in temporary shelters. It was also their harvest festival, “the season of our gladness” as they called it. Each day they would gather in the Temple. The priest would fill a pitcher with water from the Pool of Siloam (where Jesus healed the blind man), as the people recited Isaiah 12:3, “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” The priest would pour out the water as people waved palm branches and sang “O give thanks to the Lord.” Through this act of worship, the people were thanking God for water, praying for rain, and remembering the water from the rock in the wilderness.

We read in chapter 7 of John that it was at this festival, perhaps at the very moment, that Jesus said, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.” It’s as if Jesus is saying, “You’re thanking God for water that quenches your physical thirst. Come to me and I will give you water that quenches your spiritual thirst.”

Our Marion Medical Mission well dedications are acts of worship. We thank God for the gift of water, we’re told how to care for the well, and we’re invited to share the love of Christ whenever we use it. Each time we come to the well, we see “Glory to God” written on top, and remember this water comes from God.

Perhaps each time we use our well or get a glass of water from the faucet, we can make it an act of worship. We can thank God for the gift of physical water that nourishes our bodies and we can thank Jesus that he is the Living Water that nourishes our souls.

Application Question: How can you turn getting a drink of water into a reminder of what God has done for you?

Prayer: Dear Jesus, our Living Water, the Joy of our Salvation, you have given us festivals and holidays to help us remember all You have done for us. Each time we take a drink of water, help us remember that You are the Living Water, and that You quench our physical and our spiritual thirst. Amen

Reverend Suzanne Gorhau
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Nebraska/Iowa

A Wonderful Legacy

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7



Is everything a happenstance; experiences we have, what we want our children to embrace; the values and beliefs we want them to hold and the relationships we want them to cherish? No, everything happens for a reason. Nothing occurs by chance, it's all part of God's divine plan. Life succession can be tough work to do; sharing experience, install our faith, beliefs, and build good morals values in children is laborious but we all strive to do it in order to leave a good legacy.

God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and strength, and impress this commandment on our children. The image of God in our sight is our neighbor. Your involvement with Marion Medical Mission addresses this law and makes a difference to the betterment of the world everyone seeks to live in.

I have neither been to the United States of America nor researched much about the culture, but surely, I can feel the love of God coming from there. Each and every year, Christians from the U.S. come to Africa, and share their love of Christ by participating in the very important aspects of Marion Medical Mission's program; Well installation, capacity building, and many others. They leave their comfort zones (beautiful homes and families) and come here to Africa regardless of differences, in conditions that might be detrimental to their health, only to save God's people out here and make a tremendous impact in their lives by providing villages with access to safe drinking water yearly, again and again. This is the best way we can make the world a better place to live. Let us also impress the same gesture of love in our children so that we leave a good heritage.

Application Question: God entrusted me with a precious gift of life, how can I enjoy and use it for the benefit of others as one way of expressing my love for HIM?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You so much for the beautiful day and the precious gift of life entrusted to me solely for the fulfillment of thy purpose. Open my eyes to see, my ears to hear, and my heart to acknowledge thy will. Use me to help those who are in need in any way possible, as an expression of my inner love for You. Amen

Happy Kamsonga
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Live By Faith



*For we live by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7*

2008 was my first MMM trip to Africa. I was a bit scared, with some fear but mostly excited and couldn't wait to go. It was a leap of faith. In 2022 after 12 MMM trips, it's still a leap of faith.

I have a vivid memory of an entire day of well installations when everything that could go wrong at every well delayed us. We forgot a part for the well. The truck got stuck. The well pipe needed to be rethreaded. It was hot and our team was frustrated. Driving to the last well during this long day, going down a winding mountainous one-track path, we had a near collision with an ambulance coming up the curve on the same path.

Once we were able to safely pass, Jordan Banda had me stop under the shade of a mango tree. He had us all get out, hold hands, and form a prayer circle. We prayed for our mission, our villagers, ourselves, and our truck. So simple, full of faith and hope that in all things with Him, the impossible is possible.

We then went on our way to install our last well. When the villagers saw our truck, they started singing and dancing, shaking our hands in gratitude, thinking that since it was late that we had forgotten them. The well was installed without a problem. As the sun was setting, we could see the Mamas lining up with their buckets to bring clean safe water to their huts for the first time.

Application Question: Today, where will you find faith and hope with the knowledge that together we can do anything?

Prayer: Lord, today we thank You for being with us when we bring clean safe water to the villages. Because of our faith, we are able to face whatever comes our way. We pray in Your name. Amen

Betty Samelson
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Colorado

Love One Another

*By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.
John 13:35*



Love one another. Such a simple command. Carrying that out can require so much and lead us into many difference places, including the beautiful continent of Africa.

Love propels us to serve. It motivates us to sacrifice time away from our families, to save money for airfare, and to face any fears we might have by flying halfway across the world in order to help Marion Medical Mission in its mission to bring clean water to Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Love is why you are here. Let that be your reminder every day. Every morning, every bumpy road, every step on those long walks to the wells. Let love always be present and let it be your guide.

You might find yourself weary or fearful along the way. Let God's love renew your strength and calm your fears. Find peace in each villager's smile and warmth in their celebrations of song and dance. Rejoice in every well that pumps out clean water.

When you have completed your time with Marion Medical Mission in Africa, you're a different person. Love motivated you to go, it pushed you forward and enabled you to serve others. But it's the love you received from the people you encounter during your trip that will stay with you. The staff and villagers at MMM will demonstrate love that will seep into your soul and imprint Africa and its people forever into your heart.

Love is one of the greatest things you will experience on your trip.

Application Questions: Why do we serve? How will you love in God's way today?

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, help me remember that Your love is what guides us, what strengthens us and what gives us hope and salvation. Let my heart always be full of love for You and my neighbors. Lead me to serve others and always be willing to help anyone in need. I pray for Your will in my life and that everything I do may be glorifying to You. Amen

Amanda Prather
Volunteer, Ireland
(reprinted from 2018)

God Has a Plan



As Jesus sat next to the well, a Samaritan woman came to draw water and Jesus said to her, "give me a drink." The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, give me a drink, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

John 4:7-10

Why go to Malawi Africa in the fall of 2012? Unknown to me at the time, God had a purpose for me to go. My eldest son and I would be traveling with seasoned Africa travelers being led by a local physician. On this trip I would see the extreme poverty in rural Malawi. I would meet Tom and Jocelyn Logan and hear about MMM for the first time. I would learn about the shortage of clean drinking water and the benefits of protected wells.

I returned to Malawi in the fall of 2019. On this trip I participated in the well work with Jim Nussbaumer and three MMM staff members for a day. After the first well of the day I knew why God had me travel to Africa, I now understood God's plan. This was about being given the opportunity to work with MMM to help provide the blessing of clean drinking water to these wonderful children of God in remote African villages. I hope and pray that it is God's plan for me to return to Africa as an MMM volunteer.

Just as God had a plan for the woman at the well, God has a plan for us all.

Application Question: What are you doing to discern God's plan for you?

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, help us to understand Your will. Open our eyes Lord, so we can see the plan that You have for each and every one of us. Dear Lord, we ask that You watch over the MMM staff and the American volunteers doing Your work. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chuck Overstreet
Volunteer, Virginia

Just Say the Word

*The centurion replied,
"Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.
But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."
Matthew 8:8*



All things being equal, our brethren, USA volunteers, have not hesitated to show up to Africa on the MMM safe water provision mission. We have over the years been happy seeing more of you inspiring us as you represent Christ among us Africans and showering God's love all over our communities. You are called to this mission and you wholeheartedly accept by leaving your comfort zone in the USA to be God's instrument for His people He wants to relieve of thirst and water borne diseases in Africa.

However, Satan has his ways and wants to break the link by bring Covid-19 to separate us. We thank God we are a resilient brotherhood that has refused to be defeated. The Mission continues though a world apart. We are still reaching out to those that need our help years through the coronavirus. Like the centurion we have said just say the word and the people will be healed of the burden of water borne diseases and have a sustainable safe water source.

May we fill more of the call today to speak more of the need here in Africa, provide and source more through our different forums, so that we are still a working instrument in this mission though physically detached. In this way Satan will give up and let us physically come for the mission again and shine Christ's love in the remote communities in Africa like we are called to.

Application Question: Do I realize only a word is enough for God's mission accomplishments?

Prayer: Lord, help me realize there are some things I cannot immediately change but rather change my ways and altitude. Grant me the calmness to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. We need more of Your energy in us, Father, to fight on through the negative waves and never tire to do good in fulfilling your mission. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Francis Kaponda
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Watching and Waiting



*Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life
Proverbs 13:12*

It was my first year as a Marion Medical Mission volunteer. Most of our villages were quite spread out. We were the Team 2 clean-up crew – the outlying villages. We could easily have to drive two hours to get to the first well and then an hour plus to the following villages. But my partner and I both love driving so that wasn't a problem. But this day, we had two villages very close to each other. In fact, we stopped in one to drop off the pipes and pump and then continued on to the other as our builder knew he could get back here and get started installing while we were dedicating the first well and celebrating with the people. This would 'speed' our progress for the day.

We dedicated the first well, celebrated and received offerings of thanks (eggs, ground nuts, tomatoes) and headed back to the village we had passed through. When I stopped the truck and opened the door, I was greeted by an agogo (grandmother). She took my hand and did not release it as we walked to the well site. She talked to me the entire way, waving her free hand around to the land and the people. While I don't really know what she said, I understood. This was her home, her family, and the glistening in her eyes and the smile on her face said so much.

Agogo didn't release my hand until she saw the clean water come out of the well. She let out an ululation (high pitched warble) and bounced with joy. Our Field Officer then told me that she had been telling me that when she saw the truck come through the village and not stop, she was devastated. She had seen trucks passing on other days and had begun to lose hope that our promise would be kept. And then we had come but passed right through. When we returned she wasn't going to let me go until that water came to be. Her dreams came true. Her family would be healthy, her village would no longer get sick. Water is life and God is good.

Application Questions: What are you hoping for? How can you help make it happen?

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for your promises to us. To always love us and to send us those who can help. Help us as we help others and as we share Your love to all those around us, near and far. Remind us that we are not forgotten, we are loved, and we are called. Amen

Jessi Stitt
Volunteer, North Carolina

Do Unto Others

*Do to others as you would have them do to you.
Luke 6:31*



The installation of a well is a joyous thing. There is curiosity, there is hope, there is song, dance, and wonder. People of all ages gather, from babes in arms to those who are stooped and grey. The men who normally shun the “women’s work” of fetching the water gather, and the women who have hauled unclean water from distances gather. It is a celebration for that village.

And it could end there. It is a great day. It is a day that marks health and wellness for the community. A new well starts a new experience of life for that village. Yet as we leave a village, a happy village, there is often a parting request from the villagers. On the way back to the truck, with big smiles and much enthusiasm, they ask us to come back and install a well in another village, the village they came from, or that their parents or children or siblings are from. They ask for what has been done for them to be done for others. They advocate for their neighbors to have safe, clean, drinking water, and the experience of the gift of a well.

This joyous experience reflects the Golden Rule, in that the villagers ask for others to have the good, the joyful, the wondrous, that they have experienced. Come to life, come to glorious, generous life, the Golden Rule rings out on the walk back to the truck, “Come back! There is a village that needs a well over there!” May their contagious joy find its way into all of our lives, wishing for the best in our lives to overflow and expand into the lives of our neighbors.

Application Question: How will you live into the Golden Rule today?

Prayer: Dear Lord, help us to capture the joy of the villagers upon receiving clean water, and the love that they share with their neighboring villages. Show us how to bring the Golden Rule into everything that we do. Amen

Reverend Wade Halva
Volunteer, Illinois

We Have So Much



*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods
and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
1 John 3:17*

Whenever I share the mission of MMM with someone, I feel I must warn them that “this is a rough trip.” They may not have air conditioning, ever see a piece of ice, sleep in a comfortable bed, or have electricity. The roads are rough, the hills are steep, the dust is thick, it’s hot, and the days are long. I just want them to know that it’s no vacation.

But when I experience these same conditions I consider it a blessing. It makes me realize that in comparison to the rest of the world we are truly blessed by God’s immense grace. We have so much and often take it for granted. Seeing what our African brothers and sisters don’t have is very convicting. So what can we do to help?

First, we can support the program by going to Africa to show our love as God has shown his love for us. Clean water is a necessity to improve health, with a tremendous effect on people’s overall welfare. Improved health allows more people to go to work, go to school, or care for the young. It helps the economy prosper. Economic growth means better health care, improved infrastructure, and a better standard of living.

Next, we can give financially and encourage others to give to provide clean water through MMM. As the number of wells installed each year keeps climbing, we need to respond financially. The number of people served by MMM wells is not an insignificant part of the country’s population. That needs to continue to increase.

We need to pray for the people of Africa for political stability, improved health, favorable weather, and for the MMM personnel that make the program work year after year. When we are in Africa I think it shows that we and others do care, and I feel this gives them encouragement. Over the years many of us have made great friends in Africa, and this has been an incredible blessing that I will always cherish.

Application Question: What things that we daily take for granted can we give to others less fortunate right here at home?

Prayer: Almighty Father, help us to be more mindful of the abundance of material blessings You so graciously bestow on us. Help us find ways to share with others to show our love for them as You show your love to us. Amen

Tim Exley
Volunteer, Georgia

All Things Are Possible



And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there. And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

John 2:1-8

Blessed are those who put Christ first in their day-to-day life and doings.

There was a marriage feast in Cana Galilee, the owners of the marriage invited Jesus Christ to the feast and was accompanied with his disciples, also the mother of Jesus was there. In verse three the problems began at the wedding feast, they ran out of wine whilst the wedding was at its peak and the owner of the marriage became hopeless and embarrassed. Jesus's mother said to him, they have no wine. Though it was not His time, Jesus asked the servants to fill the empty pots with water and the water became wine, and life came back to normal.

Brothers and sisters, as we are going out for installation we should first invite Jesus to go with us in the field. In the event of any problem, we can ask Jesus Christ to help us since He is with us. We invited Him first to go with us. When we reach the well, we first call upon Christ since the MMM program is a faith-based program. If Jesus was not invited at the wedding, the problem was not going to be solved. With God all things are possible.

Application Question: How will you put Christ first today?

Prayer: Our God and our Father we invite You,, as we are going out in the field for installation, we pray for the people we are going to meet, that they shall become a blessing to the water program, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Crispin Mhango
MMM Coordinator, Zambia

The Hope That Lies Within



*But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.
Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands
from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.
! Peter 3:15*

Nelson, a faithful field officer in the co-pilot seat, navigates the trip from Embangweni to Muyombe, Zambia through Lukusuzi National Park. He is frightened over the stories of elephant herds trampling people and vehicles. As he repeats stories of the elephant attacks, my prayers go deeper.

It is dark when we arrive at the Kazawali trading post where our room is in the back, with one 12-inch window with iron bars (shaped like a cross). Fortunately the flashlight guides me to the tiny room where I light the candle on the small bedside table. And there under the candle stand is a Bible placed by the Gideons.

There is no running water or electricity in the whole town. We are grateful for the pit across the dirt parking lot and nearby a bucket of water to 'bathe' in. Field Officer Isaac Tindi meets us at sunrise to start ten days of memorable building of wells and relationships.

Getting out of our comfort zone presents opportunities for growth and learning to trust that God is at work. The Gideon Bible reminds us of our purpose of showing Christ and sensing His presence. God is always at work.

Thank you MMM team for serving in Christ's name. You are showing what Jesus commands and must prepare to share the 'why'.

Scripture says to be ready to give an answer for the hope that lies within. Scripture says wisdom sometimes has no words. The greater wisdom is to know the difference. Another reason we pray.

Application Question: Pray to prepare with our own life story of transformation when prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for clean water and for the MMM well ministry that shows Christ through changing lives. Help us each plant seeds of hope through this work and prepare to share "the hope that lies within" of Christ transforming our hearts and lives. Help us to learn from those we are serving with and those who allow us to serve with this ministry. Thank You for the privilege of serving. Amen

Harry T. Jones
Volunteer, Georgia

The Presence of God

*If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
If I settle on the far side of the sea,
Even there your hand will guide me,
Your right hand will hold me fast.
Psalm 139:9-10*



According to the footnotes in my NIV Bible, the “wings of the dawn” and the “far side of the sea” represent the two horizontal extremes: east and west; a literary usage which really means us to think “the whole creation.” In other words, there is no place where we are not in the presence, and under the care, of God. The rest of this Psalm talks about God’s constant presence. There is no place to escape His gaze or hide from Him – not even in Heaven or in Sheol. That is a very comforting thought to those who are driving into the remote regions where MMM helps install wells. When we don’t quite know where we are, God does. He knows if that bridge is safe or if we should ford the river, and it would be an excellent idea to ask Him and wait for the answer.

Our God is here in Africa and keeping an eye on every truck and team no matter where they are ALL THE TIME, AT THE SAME TIME. He is also watching those we care about back home. As humans, we find it hard to comprehend that idea – actually, we can’t comprehend it! It is sometimes comforting to know God is with me, right here, right now, no matter what, but sometimes the same thoughts are a bit frightening because there are times we’d rather God wasn’t keeping a close watch on us.

Not only is He watching us, but the Psalmist says “Your right hand will hold me fast.” Here in Africa, we mzungu sometimes don’t understand the significance of using the right hand. The right hand is considered to be the “clean” hand. We eat with it. It is the one extended in friendship. And it is the one our God uses to hold on to us. When in a difficult situation somewhere in the African backcountry, you can be sure His arm – His right arm – is around you, holding tight. Pause – settle your nerves – take a deep breath and see if you can even physically feel that Presence. It will be His right arm, so if you are driving, God will be on the passenger side – maybe He even straddles that darn gear shift. And why shouldn’t He? You are going out to see some of His children and give them clean water.

Application Question: Can you be open today to the possibility of an actual, physical presence of God close beside you?

Prayer: Almighty Father, thank You for promising to be close beside me, holding me up with Your right hand. Thank You for the gift of Your presence even when I’d rather You weren’t looking. Father, receive my praise for all You do and have done and will do.

Carol Nussbaumer
Volunteer, Colorado

Never Give Up Doing Good!



*Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at a proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9*

This verse reminds me of how each of us goes through life, getting weary and giving up in many situations because we are looking for a reward prematurely. We are reminded by the verse that the condition for the reward comes if we do not give up doing good. God knows the proper time for our harvest. We must continue doing good in all situation that we come across.

In our work with people in villages we all at some point feel tired and resort to giving up doing good. In our daily work schedules as Coordinators, Field Officers, Installation supervisors, maintenance persons, builders, village committees, and USA volunteers, we feel we have worked hard enough and are not rewarded accordingly.

The word of God in Galatians 6:9 tells us at the right time your harvest will come if we do not give up doing good. I believe God will determine that reward for us... if we continue doing good.

The work of serving people with clean drinking water is not easy but we must not become weary, for we are serving God's s people who are in need of our service.

Application Question: How can I fight the temptation of giving up in doing good in serving God's people?

Prayer: Oh God, give me strength to better serve Your people without giving up doing good. I understand that many times I look for a reward even if the time for it is not proper. Help me understand Your will that only You determines the proper harvest at a proper time. Bless each one of us doing your work to serve clean drinking water to Your people. Give us strength not to give up doing good. Amen!

Vyalema Khosa
MMM Coordinator, Malawi

A Time to Celebrate

*Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness
like an ever-flowing stream.
Amos 5:24*



It was the end of a long, hard day and getting near dark. We walked up to the last village, installed the well, and proceeded with the dedication. We were tired and ready to go back to the lodge. When it came time for the chief to speak, he looked at his villagers, at the installers, and at us and said, "Don't ever imagine that we take this clean water for granted. When we are born, we need water to clean the baby. When we die, we need water to wash the body for a proper burial. And every day in between, we need water to live. To us, water is life. Madzi ndi moyo. Alleluia."

Those words struck home with me. That was why we were here. We were bringing life giving water to this village. They had been waiting years for this and they wanted to celebrate with us. Celebration of life takes place at every well we dedicate. The dancing, the singing, the hugs, and the handshakes are moments we should enjoy and cherish.

Whenever the day has been long, take time to remember the joy you saw at the well. Whenever the drive has been rough or the walk particularly long or the food bland and the bed hard, remember the reason you're here. You are bringing life-giving water to the people of the village. Reflect on the villagers you visited and write about them in your journal. Your memories will lift you up and prepare you for the next day.

Application Question: How do I celebrate life's miracles?

Prayer: Loving God, we give thanks and rejoice in the hard work, fun, and fellowship that our installers, field officers, volunteers, and all those unknown to us played in making our day a wonderful experience. May we find gladness and satisfaction in all of our successes and challenges. May this experience of teamwork and sacrifice strengthen our bond and deepen our commitment to our mission to serve our brothers and sisters. Grant to all of us rest and renewal so that we may continue to serve You faithfully and without ceasing. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen

Hugh Stempfley
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Illinois
(reprinted from 2018)

Love One Another!



*Jesus said: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
John 13:34,35*

These verses are from the account of Jesus washing his disciples' feet the night before he was arrested. The story reminds me of MMM and Africa for several reasons. First, it is common for someone (usually a woman) to come around before a meal and ask to wash your hands. Sometimes on bended knee in a very humble way. Very much the servant posture Jesus was assuming in the story. Secondly, it blows my mind to realize that Jesus washed Peter's feet, who would deny him, and Judas' feet, who would betray him. He served and loved them regardless. Thirdly, in the two short verses above, the phrase "love one another" is repeated three times! Jesus/God, is all about love. I John 4:8 reminds us that God Is Love, the essence and power of love. How should we love one another? Follow Jesus' example. By being humble and serving one another. By serving not just our family and friends but also those who cannot return the service.

Marion Medical Mission seeks to live out Jesus' service/love model in how they provide clean, safe, protected water sources. Our relationship with the villages is on a horizontal axis, not a top-down model. We work hand in hand and don't presume to know all the answers. Our simple, guiding principle is to provide clean water to those who have none, regardless of any differences that exist. In 1996, we were installing a well when someone approached us and said brusquely; "What are you doing here? This land belongs to the Roman Catholic Church." Now it was obvious that someone had dropped the ball in properly communicating with the church; but I simply said. "Do you need clean safe water here?" He replied that was a very big need and we completed the task in harmony, gratitude, and joy. Regardless of belief, regardless of tribe or religion, the bottom line is "Do you need clean safe water?" If so MMM says, "Let's work on that together."

Application Questions: How can you live out your discipleship using Jesus' servant/love model? What needs do you see around you to which God is calling you?

Prayer: Just as Jesus has loved us and given his life for us, we also should love one another. By this everyone will know that we are his disciples, if we have love for one another. Amen

Reverend Marlin Otte
Volunteer and MMM Vice-President, Illinois

God Is Faithful

Sometime later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the Lord came to him, go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.

1 Kings 17:7-9



In this passage, we see God instructing Elijah to leave the Kerith Ravine, since the brook had dried. Here we see God looking after Elijah making sure he is well provided in times of need.

Our God will not forsake us, He will be there for us, even though it may look like He is not around or even if the situation may not be appealing to us. We must trust that He is with us, all we need is to trust Him.

Today as we set out again for another installation, let us trust God, that He is already there. Just like Elijah, He has already arranged people that will attend to us.

Our God is faithful.

Application Question: How will I remember to trust God today?

Prayer: Dear Lord we thank You for the day today, be with us as we go out again today. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Lewis Silungwe
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Who Is My Neighbor?



*But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus,
"And who is my neighbor?"
Luke 10:29*

Most of us are familiar with this part of Jesus' ministry. This question comes from an expert in the law who wanted to justify himself before Jesus. Jesus answers the question within the parable of the Good Samaritan and then asks the following question of his own. "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" To which the man answers; "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus closes the parable with these words, "Go and do likewise."

What Jesus is asking the man, and all of us to remember is who our neighbor is, but more importantly who we are to our neighbor.

Are we willing to be a neighbor to those with whom we disagree?

Are we willing to be a neighbor to those with who look or act differently from ourselves?

Are we willing to be so much of a neighbor to others that we experience community from their perspective?

Are we willing to be curious instead of judgmental?

If we can see and understand these things, we become a community defined not by boundaries of race, nationality, political affiliation, social status, etc., but a community that worships and loves God with everything we are, and loves our neighbors as ourselves.

Application Questions: Who is my neighbor? Who am I to my neighbor?

Prayer: Gracious and ever merciful and loving God. Allow us to seek and find the space and the silence to hear Your voice in our lives. Grant us Father the eyes to see that our community extends beyond the things that we have in common. Allow us to see that it is truly Your grace and mercy that bring us together into a people that can help and love each other. It is in the strong name of Your Son, Our Lord and Savior, the One who represents our peace, our hope, and our healing that we ask You to hear this prayer. Amen

Rich Rej
Volunteer, Michigan

Reflections

*As the water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.
Proverbs 27:19*



From my daughter Jocelyn Marie's journal in 1992, at age 16, Embangweni, Malawi.

"As I approached the Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit (NRU) at the hospital, I heard the squeal of joy I had come looking for. Little Fiskani was hiding from me. I looked again and peering around the corner of the building was a beautiful face with soft orange hair, shining eyes, and a heart grabbing smile. She found the deepest part of my heart faster than anyone in the world ever has. I held out my arms and Fiskani jumped into them, bursting with excitement.

"Fiskani, a toddler, and her family of seven lived in a mud hut with two small rooms, a thatch roof, a chair, and a small table. Their diet consisted of a white paste made of crushed corn and water. They had already lost three children from a lack of good water, food, and medical care. They had come to the NRU for the illnesses of Fiskani's baby brothers (six-month-old twins) who were severely malnourished and dying at barely one-third their ideal body weight. Fiskani's orange hair indicated kwashiorkor, a form of malnutrition. Fiskani spent her day laughing and dancing.

"My last day at Embangweni Hospital was sad – mostly because of little Fiskani. I painted a smiling face on a white gym sock, stuffed it, and sewed a red handkerchief around it to make a tiny doll in a dress. She cradled the little doll and ran around showing it to her mother, sister and people around. She then brought the doll back and handed it to me as though it couldn't possibly be for her. I picked her up and held her in my arms. Smiling with tears in my eyes, I said, *Paweme (Goodbye) Fiskani*. From the truck, I watched her mother place the doll on a cloth and tie it around Fiskani's back, the same way her mother and seven-year-old sister carried her twin brothers. I watched Fiskani's face glow with happiness. Fiskani's smile, laughter, love brought out what is important in my life. Sadness, happiness, compassion, joy, hit me. She reminds me of my ideals, goals, and purpose in following God's Will."

Application Question: Your life reflects your ideals and purpose. What is important in your life?

Prayer: Father, help us to be a reflection of what is important in our lives and to pursue it with our time and energy to Your Glory. Amen

Jocelyn Logan
MMM Co-founder and Treasurer

Peace



Peace I leave with you; My [own] Peace I now give and bequeath to you. Not as the World gives do I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be intimidated and cowardly and unsettled]

John 14:27

For Our Almighty God does help and solve problems of one who strives to help oneself. Hence, with the Covid-19 pandemic which has ravaged the whole world, with all the big super powers and developed countries crying for God's intervention. However, the World Health Organization has given some very simple guidelines to follow. Above all, then, not to forget praying to our Almighty God for His Mighty intervention, to wipe out this deadly pandemic.

This verse really challenged me when I read it in the light of the present situation of Covid-19. How easy it is to get into panic mode and to become [as the Bible says]; "disturbed, fearful, cowardly, and unsettled." I have a choice to make; will I allow myself to become disturbed and even agitated? Do I stop listening to the news or watching television? Do I cut myself off from telephone calls, especially from those who are panicking? I guess these are all choices which I could make.

However, for me the basic choices are these: "With what do I fill my mind and heart?" And secondly, "How do I replace panic with peace?"

The answer would seem to be, to rest on and fill my mind with God's word. Does this mean that I do not listen or even think about the present situation? No, rather I believe that we can turn each situation into prayer. Talking to God about it, for it allows us to get His perspective and therefore, give us this peace.

So today I have made a decision. I am going to choose the Peace which the Word of God promises to give me to guard my heart and resist the panic which the world would seem to push me into. I will do this through prayer, to enable me to achieve my work in the 2022 Wells Installation Season. So will you join me?

Application Question: Who is our refuge and answer in these trying moments?

Prayer: Our Almighty Father, God, through Our Lord and Savior, we know that You have something for us: A key for every problem, a light for every shadow/darkness and a great plan for every tomorrow for us all. Hence, You are our answer to the ravaging Covid-19, which is besieging us all. Amen and Amen!!!

Soko Thomas Standwell
MMM Field Officer, Zambia

Rejoice!

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 1:26



In 2005 Nelson Mandela issued this great challenge: "Be that great generation that helps solve the most awful offense to humanity – extreme poverty." Mandela was the eternal optimist. How else could he survive 27 years of imprisonment only to lead South Africa in a largely peaceful revolution to finally end Apartheid?

This issue of poverty is one of the key reasons that drives people away from believing in God. Non-believers routinely ask; "If there is a God, why does He allow poverty and suffering?"

Genesis 1:26 points to the answer. God almost always works through people! He gave us dominion over our planet. So when challenged with this question, I often ask "Does our planet provide us with the resources necessary to solve world poverty? If so, is this a God problem or a human problem?" God has provided us with all the tools necessary to eliminate poverty and bring equity to humankind. He has commanded us to do so! It is therefore up to us to answer the call.

Mandela was simply repeating what scripture already commanded. The good news is Mandela must be looking down from his eternal home and giving thanks for the work humanity is finally accomplishing. In 1990 there were approximately 2 billion people living in extreme poverty – defined as less than \$1.25 per day. Today that number is projected to be 700 million. Since 1990 the number of children under age 5 dying from mostly preventable causes such as hunger and disease is less than half of what it was. Progress is a blessing to be celebrated despite the enormous work yet to be done, especially where MMM serves. But our progress is a testament to what humanity can do and continues to give us hope and unfettered determination.

So brothers and sisters in the field – REJOICE! You are fulfilling God's commandment. You are positively practicing our dominion over the Earth. You are the working hands of God Almighty. Blessings for all that you are accomplishing in His name.

Application Question: What can I do to bring about an end to poverty?

Prayer: Gracious God, we know that You have given us the tools and resources to make Your world a better place. Help us, use us, to make it happen. Amen

Grant Arends
Volunteer, Colorado

Make a Joyful Noise



*We praise you, Lord, for your glorious power.
With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.
Psalm 21:13*

Music has always been the anchor to most of my childhood memories – ushering and traveling with me into adulthood. On my very first trip to Malawi with MMM nine years ago, I found myself on that first Wednesday night listening to all the unfamiliar night sounds as I lay in the darkness of my room in Embangweni. I realized I was missing choir practice for the first time in many years. A teeny tiny nudge of homesickness crept into my head.

In that stillness and quiet, suddenly as if God heard my unspoken thoughts (of course He did), I heard the distant sound of a single clear beautiful soprano voice singing...then more voices joined her. Finally the few voices became many and I realized it was a church choir having their own Wednesday night choir practice from a church just a few yards behind my room. Little did I know, that I would experience a multitude of “choirs” singing praises for the clean water at each and every new well dedication in the days to follow. Now, that experience of being welcomed by “choirs of angels” at each well dedication has become what I look forward to and what I remember with such joy.

Since then, when I practice with my church choir back in the USA on Wednesday night, the memory of that first Wednesday night in Malawi tiptoes across my music and I smile! Our choir does not match the glorious sounds I remember, but we sing with praises to honor God the best we can.

Application Question: How do you celebrate God with music?

Prayer: Father of us all. Thank You for giving us a voice to praise Your mighty works. Because we sometimes feel inadequate, forgive us when we are embarrassed or too self-conscious to sing aloud. Help us to remember that You listen to the music we sing that is created not just with our voices...but also the music created from our hearts. Amen

Jan VanHeiningen
Volunteer, Tennessee

Love Each Other Deeply

*Above all, love each other deeply,
because love covers over a multitude of sins.
1 Peter 4:8*



After 40 years in the professional ministry and of being a leader in the church, I'm sure I've read this scripture many times. But I'll have to admit, having just read it again, it jumped off the page and now strikes me as a very interesting statement. It's the "covers over" that jumps out.

There was a time in my life when I did not care as much about the needs of others as I cared about myself. I think most of us live in a place where we move in and out of positions of selfishness and self-indulgence and of servanthood. The Apostle Paul says it so well when he declares, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23 NIV). On one level Paul seems to be reinforcing that the love of Jesus on the cross, the ultimate act of love, covers our sin and makes us forgiven. But, this passage does not let us stop there. It says, "...love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." Is the inference here that if we deeply love each other, many of our sins are "covered over," forgiven? That's what it says.

What if when we love others, it is also an act of forgiveness? Stay with me a minute on this. Think of us, at the core of our humanness, that survival is at the root of our selfishness. That instinctively we see others in competition for limited resources. So when we love, when we sacrifice the focus on our own survival to focus on the survival of others, it is an act of forgiveness of the other for their existence and their competing against our own survival, to forget about our needs and focus on another's needs. Another way of saying, forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us. And that the act of loving each other and forgiving one another, may be the same thing? There are probably holes in this concept, but it is something to ponder.

Application Question: How might I love others "more deeply"?

Prayer: Bottom line Lord, thank You for loving and forgiving us. Help us to love and forgive one another. Amen

Reverend Ed Hoke
Volunteer, Illinois

According to His Purpose



*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28*

Many of us have heard the expression “a blessing in disguise.” I have been thinking about that lately. Who among us have not been late to an appointment, and found, to our relief, that in being late we missed being involved in an accident on the highway? How many times have we wished that certain events had not occurred only to find that if that were the case, we would have missed out on an unexpected blessing?

Perhaps we are experiencing a blessing in disguise as we cope with the troubles and inconveniences brought about by COVID. Marion Medical Mission hasn't been able to send volunteers to work with the villagers and field officers because of the COVID threat. I'm sure the early concerns voiced were “how will we be able to set and meet goals to build the wells?” We've seen God work for the “good of those who love him” for two years now. Not only were goals met, but were even exceeded by those who built, transported, and installed equipment which resulted in functioning wells. They too were reminded anew of how God works in our lives.

Maybe we're supposed to actively look for and seek out God's works for our good even when we think our plans and hopes have to be put on the back burner. Perhaps we can continue to do the work He calls us to do even when we doubt our ability to overcome difficulties.

Matthew 19:26: Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. (NIV)

Application Questions: Is it possible for us to move forward with the work we're called to do, even when obstacles seem to block the way? Can we work around our doubts and trust Him to accomplish His purpose in us?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for working through us especially when we feel we cannot be useful or productive for You. Help us to remember and trust that You are indeed in control. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Rita Pearce
Volunteer, Illinois

A Source of Joy

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life*

John 3:16



It is the fifth year of building wells in the Katete area of Zambia. Not so long ago many communities were challenged daily by the shortage of clean water.

Just two weeks ago we visited a well that was constructed three years ago. The village headman on that day welcomed us in a very unusual way. Unusual in the sense that he showed us unexpected kindness by gifting us with two chickens. Normally, we are used to receiving such gifts during well installation or after working on a well that had a breakdown.

The village head then said he wished donors knew how the installed well transformed his village and that if he had resources he would fly to America to go and thank the donors personally for what they did for the village.

These words struck me and momentarily, I didn't know what to respond exactly. Then quickly I called him to the well and showed him the inscribed words on the top slab. "Ulemelero kwa Mulungu." Glory to God.

These words are a perfect reminder that MMM wells are a gift from God through MMM donors. The wells represent the story of love that is told in John 3:16. When this love is shared with the communities we work with it brings so much joy.

Application Question: Have you been refreshed by the well of God's abounding love?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your love is so deep and vast. You sent Your only beloved son to come and die for our sins so that we can have eternal life. Let Your love reach out to communities we save through this well program. Amen.

Moses Ntala
MMM Field Officer, Zambia

Water is Life - Madzi ndi Moyo!



*Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst;
but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water
springing up to eternal life.*

John 4:14

My husband Dan and I were at our last well installation of our 2016 trip to Malawi. It was late in the day with the sun setting in that most amazing way of sunsets in Malawi. It was our 8th well of the day and our 250th mile of the day. We were grateful that the village was located near the tarmac and not a hard drive back to our lodging. Many people were waiting for us in this village and they were overjoyed to see us. They had been waiting since early morning for our arrival. I remember this village because the women were especially joyful with their singing and dancing. The words I remember were in Chichewa language "Madzi ndi moyo" which I was told was "Water is life."

I started to ponder the spiritual and earthly meaning of these words. The villagers told us that the well made them so very happy because they didn't have to watch their babies die from water borne illnesses. Before the well provided safe drinking water, death of their loved ones happened all too frequently. That year was during a three-year drought, so death from hunger was also a palpable fear for these villagers. Watching the joy of the villagers in this midst of their hardships made me feel humbled by the power of God's love. The feeling welled up in me that God's love is like life-giving water.

I am writing this devotion in a year in which we have been blessed by nice spring rains and now at the end of April, the flowers and trees in Southern Illinois are blooming. The birds are singing their joyous April songs. We have just celebrated Jesus' resurrection as well as our own and that of all creation. It is hard not to perceive God's gifts all around us. The people of Malawi have given me a gift that I will carry with me the rest of my life which is the memory of their singing and praise to God for the gift of clean water which to them meant life. They rejoiced in the possibility of new life for their children.

In the words of a recent devotion that I read, "It is God who brings life out of death, overcoming evil with good, scattering darkness with light, renewing and restoring the brokenness of creation."

Application Question: In the midst of our daily struggles and burdens, do we remember to give thanks for the One who is always present, bringing life out of despair?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for our daily bread and our sacred waters of salvation. Amen

Susie Selock
Volunteer, Illinois

Justice

*But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
Amos 5:24*



One of my fondest memories of our time at a well occurred during a dedication ceremony. The field officer was demonstrating how to keep the well safe when a little girl of 5 or 6 approached the well with her bucket and filled it with the first flow from the pipe. She carefully returned to her place and started down the line of kids, giving each a drink before she herself took any.

It reminded me of the way we would take communion from a common cup before the virus put an end to that practice. In a sense her sharing of the water was communion, the sharing of Christ's love for us by the sharing of the wine and bread. Her sharing of the water was her way of showing that Christ's love was flowing from that well.

We are all part of that communion. When we supply the money to buy the materials for the well, we are sharing Christ's love. When we drive and walk to the well, we are sharing Christ's love. When we pray for the volunteers and the villagers that the well they have received will provide them with life-giving water for as long as they need it, we are sharing Christ's love.

You may ask what this has to do with justice. My dictionary gives this definition of Justice – the quality of being in conformity to what is morally upright or good. Providing access to safe, clean water is morally upright and good. Doing what you can to make sure one person, one village, one country, one world has access to something that can save lives is morally upright and good.

When Jesus said, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give water to the thirsty, and visit the prisoner, He was telling us to bring justice to the world. If we don't do this, we have two choices – either we don't think He meant it or we just don't want to do it.

Application Question: What have you done recently that promotes justice in your village, country, and world?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for your presence in the world and in our lives. We thank You for reminding us constantly of our obligations to bring justice to the world. We pray for the will and means to accomplish what You told us to do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Hugh Stempfley
Volunteer and MMM Board Member, Illinois

Giving Generously



*Remember that a person who sows few seeds will have a small crop,
the one who sows many seeds will have a large crop.*

*You should each give, then, as you have decided,
not with regret or out of sense of duty,
for God loves the one who gives gladly.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Thanks to Marion Medical Mission donors for your generous contributions to the MMM protected water programme that works in ensuring that villages are given safe water. As the scripture says you should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret, this is the truth with MMM donors, they give without regret to make sure that villages have safe water.

Through the generous giving of MMM donors, many water-related diseases have been prevented among the elders as well as children. We can't do this without the heart of giving, therefore let us be praying to God, that this heart of giving should continue so that more people should be saved from water-related diseases.

Application Question: How ready are you, to give generously?

Prayer: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Amen

Edwin Nyondo
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Fragmentation & Healing

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?"

I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation...

They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 7:13-17



I've recently been working with a refugee family from Afghanistan. We prepared a home for them, filling it with furniture, cooking supplies, clothing, personal items, toys – everything we could think of to create a comforting and welcoming home.

They're slowly settling in, but are still haunted by feelings of fear, loss, and displacement. Their country is war torn. Family members have been killed. Those who remain are being hunted and persecuted. No matter how much we surround this family with what we think they need, nothing fills the void left by the distrust, violence, and terror they have experienced.

When I was in Malawi, I was aware that regardless of our backgrounds, our skin color, or our religion, we were united by our basic humanity. We needed food and clean water, clothing and shelter; we loved our children and desired a better life for them; we cared for and respected our elders and yearned for the freedom to become the best versions of ourselves.

All over the world, people are divided by philosophies of life, politics, and a desire for power. When you are dealing with serious humanitarian issues, though, these divisions become trivial and insignificant. The wounds and scars are so deep, only the compassion, strength, and love given to you from God will heal them.

"Because All Men Are Brothers" has always been one of my favorite songs. The lyrics are powerful and timeless – "My brothers are all others, forever hand in hand...My brother's fears are my fears – yellow, white, or brown. My brother's tears are my tears the whole wide world around." May we continue to stretch out our hands – giving strength, comfort, and the love of God to all we meet.

Application Questions: Where do you see fragmentation? What will heal it?

Prayer: Be near us, O God, as we extend your mercy and love, gentleness and compassion to those who feel loneliness, sorrow or brokenness. Kindle our hope and bring us peace. Amen

Kathy Manfredi
Volunteer, Illinois

One Body



*Just as each of us has one body with many members,
and those members do not have all the same function,
so in Christ we who are many form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.*

Romans 12:4-5

Well Season in Africa coincides with the migration season for Canadian geese. At one time in my ministry, I lived along the Mississippi Flyway. I enjoyed watching geese flying south for the winter. At evening flocks of geese would land in the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge to feed and to rest for the night. I enjoyed watching them land.

What can we learn from geese? First, they **fly in formation**. They fly at a high altitude. Flying in formation creates lift under their wings and makes it easier for each member of the flock. As Tom Logan has reminded us, only together can we be who God created us to be. This applies to humans as well as wildlife.

Second, geese, flying in formation, **share the lead** with each other. In the U.S. we have shared the lead with our African partners when it comes to installing wells. Because of the Covid Pandemic no American volunteers have been able to travel to Africa for two different well seasons. In 2021 our African partners set a new record installing wells, over 3,400 of them!

Third, geese in the flock **honk from behind the leader**! What a picture of encouragement – honking from behind! We honk every time we share the story of MMM with others. As more and more people hear the story, they add their prayers and gifts to resource the well program.

Last, geese **keep company with the fallen**. When one goose cannot fly, another member of the flock comes alongside as a source of comfort and encouragement. When serious injury, sickness, or death comes to another in our community, we will offer our support to the individual or to family members or to both. When we cannot come physically, we can communicate through the internet. Together we are the body of Christ.

Application Question: Who needs my personal support, comfort and encouragement in the MMM community and among my family and friends?

Prayer: Lord let me hear You speaking in the needs of others around me. Let me both listen and act from my heart. Amen

Reverend Dick McFarlin
Volunteer, Texas

God Will Prioritize

*The crowd scolded them and told them to be quiet.
But they shouted even more loudly "Son of David take pity on us, sir."
Jesus stopped and called to them,
"What do you want me to do for you?"
Matthew 20: 31-32*



This is exactly what happens when a community has a problem. They ought to shout more and more to God for help as we have seen and heard that the two blind men of Jericho were healed because they shouted without fear.

This also applies to villages within our societies, that they ought to remind the zone committees time and again to consider them for a new water point since more villages are at long last to be considered for a protected well. With so many villages on the request list one ought to push and push for timely assistance.

This year also looks to be a bright year as we anticipate to install pumps together with our usual American friends. Villages to benefit are so many but only a few are to be considered this year as well.

Application Question: What can I do to support people who need our help?

Prayer: Dear Lord, many villages will receive new wells this year, but never let us forget that many more are waiting. We ask for Your help in providing clean water to as many people as we can. Amen

Watson Kapachika
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

Weight of Gratitude



...and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

Matthew 10:42

I stepped out of the truck, planted my feet on the super dusty ground and thought “What now?” I was on my first trip to “The Warm Heart of Africa,” and I had NO idea what was going to happen. My veteran partner climbed out and went straight to work. The parts and pipe were unloaded and we began to walk. As we headed down a dry creek bed and our feet were sinking into sand, I thought “What have I gotten myself into?”

We arrived at an area with a few houses. The people smiled and gathered around us, and we began to install the well. I held back and watched; I had really no idea what I was supposed to do. I began taking pictures, something I LOVE to do. When the kids saw what I was doing, they were very interested, so I turned the camera around and showed them the photo. They smiled and giggled and pointed. I was having a blast - I love kids, they are the fun people.

We dedicated the well and I thought “Ok, I guess we’re finished,” but not by a long shot. First the village headman thanked us and said he and the village would pray for us and our safe travels, Then they gave us a gift of chickens, and then they danced, oh my they danced. I hadn’t smiled that much with such deep-felt joy in ages. We had changed their lives and they wanted to say “Thank you” as best as they could and with all their hearts.

When the dancing ended I began to walk away when an elderly woman fell to the ground at my feet. I looked up at the Field Officer and he said “It is their custom, the weight of her gratitude is too heavy and it has pushed her to the ground.” I helped this amazing woman to her feet while she kept telling me how wonderful I was... and all I could say is “thank you.” When we finally did walk away, life seemed a little brighter, the world a little better.

Application Question: How has your life been made better by helping others?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing us to share Your love with those we know, both close and oh so far away. Amen

Dan Kingery
Volunteer, Illinois
(reprinted from 2017)

This is the Day

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:2*



It's no secret that the days of well installation can be long. Sometimes the afternoons seem to go on forever. Often times we're exhausted and caked with dust and sweat as we arrive back at the guesthouse for the evening. Yet, each morning arrives fresh, and we start over.

My favorite well of the day was always the first one. Often times we'd have driven for an hour on the tarmac before pulling off onto a rutted road, winding back further and further to a remote village. When we arrived, we'd begin to unload the truck (the first real test that we'd remembered to pack everything) and the installation team would spring into action. I'd think "This is why we came to Africa." The pipe was measured, the down-hole parts were assembled, the pump was installed, and the spout was cut, heated, and readied.

And then it was time for someone from the village to pray. And, THIS is why we came to Africa. I would lift my face to the sun, close my eyes, and listen to the prayer, not understanding the words but feeling the emotion. *This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

If the day was destined to be hot, the first well of the day would be the coolest. If the day was destined to be long, the first well of the day would be the one at which I was at my best physically. From the villagers' perspective, this was the first day that they would have clean water.

Every day, each of us has the opportunity to do whatever we can to make the world a better place, whether we're in Africa or at home. Each day we can start anew, ready to greet the world and rejoice for the gifts that we have received.

Application Question: How will you use this day that the Lord has made?

Prayer: Gracious God, we thank You for this day that You have given us, and we ask for Your blessings as we start this day anew. Be with us as we live into this day, as we live out Your will. Amen

Jane Swanson
Volunteer, Illinois
(reprinted from 2017)

God Has a Reason



For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?

Esther 4:14

Give or provide to others that need help.

And who knows but that you have come to a "royal position for such a time."

God has called us to share His love through the provision of safe and protected water to His people. A time when people need clean water, in remote and hard to reach areas.

We need to make a difference where God has placed us, though we may not see the opportunity now, but if we stay willing and open to his calling, we will find so much fulfillment in his plans.

At times we may be discouraged, by the geographical locations of certain communities, but God has a reason you are sent there.

Keep praying and God will give you solutions.

Application Questions: How can I provide to others that need help? How do I listen for God's solutions?

Prayer: Lord, help us understand that we are blessed to bless. Amen

Isaac Tindi
Field Officer, Zambia

All One in Christ Jesus

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28



In this text, the meaning is clear. In Christ we are all equal. This is why I so much enjoyed dedicating wells. I essentially used what I had learned from Tom Logan. It went something like this, “we are all different, some are young and some are old (as I pointed to my graying and ever increasing baldness), some are men and some are women and some are white and some are black. BUT, we all worship the SAME God.” I hope my African brothers and sisters heard my sincerity as I spoke these words.

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (Colossians 3:12). This passage is just one of many that guides us to a humble spirit. In the context of well installations, we are not as necessary as we may have presumed. In 2019, MMM did over 3,000 wells with the Americans working with our African partners. In 2020 and 2021, MMM did 3,000 plus wells in the absence of the Americans!

Finally, we need to visibly show we are grateful to be part of this blessing of providing protected clean water. The Heidelberg Catechism flows with the three G’s. Guilt, grace, and gratitude. Hopefully we all understand that on our own we stand condemned before God, by His grace we are declared righteous and therefore the outcome should be ever increasing gratitude. It is my prayer that we come to Africa with a pervasive gratitude in all we do to the glory of God. What a privilege! As always, as it says on the cement, Glory to God!

Application Question: How will I show my gratitude to God?

Prayer: It is my prayer that all the MMM participants - U.S. volunteers, field officers, maintenance men and women, support staff, and most importantly the African villages - will see that that blessing of clean protected water is from God, from beginning to final installation and dedication. I also pray that each person will give humble thanks to God for the opportunity to serve. Finally, I pray that each of us will be filled with joy as we share in the celebration in every village, understanding the faith that the people had that God would answer their prayers. Amen

Stephen Woxland
Volunteer, Wisconsin

Learn to Give Thanks



*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers
of the inheritance of the saints in light:
Colossians 1:12*

Paul teaching the Colossian Christians, reminded them to give thanks to God the Father who has made, or(qualified) them to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Which means it is the Father that has made them to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints.

Wow, it is the same God who has also made us to partake the blessings through Marion Medical Mission of having clean water in Malawi and Africa as a whole.

Without the heavenly Father we couldn't have known MMM, but we thank God, He chose them to bless us with clean water, may this same God help and guide them as they walk up and down the mountains in Malawi and in Africa installing the water facilities.

Application Question: What are the things you will thank the Father for?

Prayer: Heavenly Father may You bless the volunteers and all those who support the Marion Medical Mission team to help the poor with clean water, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Francis Mwanjikho
MMM Field Officer, Malawi

(reprinted from 2020)

Be Ready

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you
to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

1 Peter 3:15b



At the end of a long day of travel I was sitting at an outdoor café table at a hotel in rural Tanzania. My Field Officer had gone inside to get sodas for us and for a friend from high school he had just happened to meet, Michael. As we waited Michael asked me, “So, why is it you are here?” I explained about Marion Medical Mission and our efforts to provide protected, clean drinking water for rural villages in the name of Christ. Michael then asked me, “So, do you just do this for the Christians?” I replied, “No, we do it for anyone; Christians, Muslims, those following native religion.” Michael’s next words surprised me, “That’s right! We Christians will help anyone!” I suddenly realized I had been tested. Thank God I passed the test!

St. Peter tells us to always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that is in us that comes from God in Christ. I think we can extend this and also be ready to give the reason for our hope in Christ when it comes to what God is doing through Marion Medical Mission. Clean, protected drinking water changes lives in rural Africa. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ. Always be ready to give an answer for this hope. You never know when a test might happen!

Application Questions: What will you say when someone asks you to give the reason for your hope in Jesus Christ? Why do you help and support Marion Medical Mission?

Prayer: Holy God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, make me ready this day to give Your hope to those I meet. Amen

Reverend David Fisher
Volunteer, Colorado

Only Together



*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.
Psalm 133:1*

“All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be.” (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr)

The world is in chaos. Wars, Covid pandemic, floods, windstorms, fires, gun violence, computer viruses, cyber-attacks. On and on and on.

Yet, yet, last year MMM had the best year ever! Why? The light that shines through Marion Medical Mission is so desperately needed... especially now. Marion Medical Mission means loving your neighbor as yourself.

People tell me, the experts tell me, “You can’t build a well 8,500 miles away in rural African villages for \$450. It would cost at least five times as much. What you are talking about is impossible.” I agree. It’s impossible.

But last year, construction started on September 1st, and by December 31st Marion Medical Mission had built 3,413 wells covering 60,000 square miles in Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania. These wells provide 315,120 of the extreme rural poor with a sustainable source of safe drinking water. 315,120 people got the message Christians from the United States shared the love of Jesus with them. What do these people think about Christianity? What do they think about the United States? ***This is the best defense against a world in chaos, it is the best defense against war and terror.*** But we forget...

This is an example of what is right in the world. It is an example of what can happen when God’s people come together. Through this program we are a part of each other. The Beloved Community that spans the globe.

What you do speaks so loud I can’t hear what you say.

Application Question: How will you come together to share the love of Jesus?

Franciscan Benediction: May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe you can make a difference in this world, so you can do what others claim cannot be done.

Tom Logan
MMM Co-founder and President



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